

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 10, 11, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite grant of a patent on claims 5-9 and 12. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional or continuation applications claiming the subject matter of the withdrawn or canceled claims at any time up to payment of the issue fee for the instant application.

Claims 5-7 have been amended. Therefore, claims 5-9 and 12 are currently pending and at issue.

Claim 5 has been amended to recite “to a mammalian subject.” Claim 6 has been amended to correct dependency. Claims 6 and 7 have each been amended to recite “wherein”.

No new matter has been added.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,827,950 (“Hong”), and Babenkova, et al., *Vestnik oftalmologii* (abstract) (“Babenkova”).

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 13 is moot because these claims have been canceled.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-9 and 12 have been indicated to be allowable (*see* Office Action Summary).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the pending claims (i.e., claims 5-9 and 12) are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

S. Peter Ludwig

Registration No.: 25,351

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant